

**Village of Russells Point
April 7, 2025
Council Meeting**

Mayor John Huffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Council members Joan Hinterschied, Rebekah Smith, Greg Iiams, Joan Maxwell and Steve Reid were present. Dave Wallace was absent and **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Reid to excuse the absence of Councilor Wallace. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

Recorder: Fiscal Officer Marc McGuire

Guests: Dianne Gauder, Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator

AshLee Hullinger, Clerk of Courts/Admin Assistant

Ann Elleman

Cynthia Defibaugh

Geoff Rigney

Howard Traul

Sharon DeVault

Pat Tynan

Jeff Patten

Liz Gibson

John Henschen

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the council meeting minutes dated March 17, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Maxwell to approve the council meeting minutes dated March 31, 2025. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

Reports:

Mayor's Court

- The March 2025 statement for Mayor's Court showing total receipts of \$2,040 was presented to council. **Motion** was made by Councilor Hinterschied and seconded by Councilor Maxwell the March 2025 Mayor's Court statement as submitted. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.

Fire District

- Councilor Maxwell presented the Indian Lake Joint Fire District Report dated March 18, 2025. The next meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Parks & Recreation

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

Police

- Chief Freyhof submitted the Calls of Service Log noting a total of 378 calls of service in March.
- Chief Freyhof stated that the Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 19th from 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM.
- Sergeant Styles continues with the professional leadership development course.
- Officer Jarman completed the subject control instruction for self-defense.

Maintenance

- The Maintenance Team Report was submitted to council and with no questions from council.

Ordinances and Resolutions: none

Indian Lake Yacht Club

- Councilor Smith spoke of the Indian Lake Yacht Club's amended CRA tax exemption proposal of a 75% property tax reduction for a duration of 15 years. It was noted that the village gets a small portion of the real estate tax revenue paid by the Yacht Club and council would need to look at the decision from a community perspective. The Yacht Club currently pays approximately \$6,400 annually in real estate taxes, but the club's taxes would increase due to the upgrades/renovations being made to the clubhouse and the shelter house/restroom.

Councilor Reid noted that he would favor the exemption based on the what the Yacht Club does for the village by bringing people to the community who spend money. Councilor Hinterschied stated she is in favor of the exemption. Councilor Maxwell expressed concern on the benefit to the taxpayers if the exemption is agreed upon. It was stated by Howard Traul that the club would have to pay 3 to 4 times as much in taxes due to the improvements and noted that the Yacht Club supports local businesses by bringing more people to the community during special events. Councilor Iiams noted that the CRA program is limited on the corporate side by a village resolution and thinks the resolution should be reviewed by the Village Solicitor. Councilor Smith noted that she would like to see the Yacht Club make a commitment, if an exemption is granted, to the community and partnership with local community programs, i.e., sailing lessons, a sailing club at local schools, youth sailing programs, etc. Councilor Smith would like a village resolution drafted for the approval of the exemption that also includes an agreement with the village to have a partnership to encourage community programs. Council agreed to have the Village Solicitor draft a resolution stating as such and it be brought to council at the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 21, 2025.

- Council also discussed the need for the Yacht Club to run electric to the boat docks. Dianne Gauder noted that the electric installation does not directly interfere with the CRA, is a safety hazard, and will draft a letter stating such.

Citizen Comments: none

Old Business:

- Chief Freyhof presented 3 quotes, from different auto dealerships, to council for the purchase of a village vehicle. All vehicles were similarly priced below the \$25,000 threshold. Chief Freyhof added that approximately \$4,000 extra will be added to the purchase price to properly install emergency response, tri-color lights to the vehicle. Council discussed the use and function of the vehicle and that it would serve the police department as well as zoning, municipal office functions (post office, bank travel), traveling to seminars/trainings. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to allow Chief Freyhof to enter into an agreement with a dealership, who provides the best price, to purchase a Honda Ridgeline vehicle that does not exceed a cost of \$25,000. A roll call vote was taken and council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed.
- Council reviewed the Choice One Engineering change orders for the storm improvements project. Council agreed that the dollar amount on some of the change orders are excessive and asked Mayor Huffman to invite Tyler Thobe, Project Engineer from Choice One Engineering, to the next council meeting to discuss.
- Councilor Reid submitted the Choice One Engineering agreement to provide services for the village splashpad site plan. **Motion** was made by Councilor Reid and seconded by Councilor Smith to allow Mayor Huffman to enter into an agreement with Choice One Engineering for such services.
- Council and Chief Freyhof discussed the Engine Brake Prohibited signs located at the village corporation limits. It was agreed that the signs were posted on the corporation limit sign posts.

New Business:

- Mayor Huffman noted that AshLee Hullinger, Clerk of Court and Administrative Assistant, will attend Mayors Court training on April 24th and April 25th.

Executive Session:

- Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 121.22 (G)(1), to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. **Motion** was made by Councilor Smith and seconded by Councilor Hinterschied to enter into an executive session and to invite Chief Freyhof into the executive session. A roll call vote was taken and Council voted in favor 5-0. Motion passed and Council and Chief Freyhof entered into the executive session at 8:20 PM. At 8:35 PM, Chief Freyhof exited the executive session. At 8:38 PM council resumed the open meeting and a **motion** was made by Councilor Iiams and seconded by Councilor Smith to exit the executive session. Motion passed and council resumed the open meeting.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Iiams to adjourn at 8:39 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed